

From: Bob Day
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 4:50pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The Microsoft settlement is just fine, and my suggestion would be to impose it also on the nine states that have so far not accepted it.

1. Microsoft is guilty, at the most, of being a big company that was still acting like a small company.
2. Microsoft's competitors are guilty, at the least, of trying to accomplish in court what they could not accomplish by competition in the marketplace. They are, and always have been, totally free to develop their own operating systems, but have generally chosen not to because of the high cost of entry, and have instead chosen to ride on the back of Microsoft, and then complain when they didn't like the ride.
3. Microsoft did not harm consumers. Compaq's VMS operating system, for example, costs many times what Windows XP does. And, Microsoft by making its software development tools (Visual Basic, Visual C++ and so on) available to third party software developers at reasonable prices, has done more than any other company to encourage and promote development of software by third parties. On the other hand, Apple, for example, by limiting the availability of its development tools and discouraging the manufacture of clones of its hardware, has done much to prevent development of Apple-compatible software by independent software development companies. Offhand, I would say that without Bill Gates and Microsoft, there's a good chance you (yes you, who is reading this email) would not have a computer on your desk -- they would still be too expensive for the average person or the average worker.

Except as a happy user of Microsoft software, I have no association whatsoever with Microsoft.

-- Bob Day
Portsmouth, NH
bobday@mediaone.net
603-433-5646